

U.S. Military Academy - Artillery Stables
(Enlisted Men's Service Club and Post Library)
West side of Swift Road, west of Buffalo Soldier Field
U.S. Military Academy
West Point
Orange County
New York

HABS No. NY-5708-46

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PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, DC 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

U.S. MILITARY ACADEMY - ARTILLERY STABLES
(ENLISTED MEN'S SERVICE CLUB AND POST LIBRARY)

LOCATION:

West side of Swift Road, west of Buffalo Soldier Field,
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Orange County, New York.

USGS, West Point Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator
Coordinates: 18.586600.4581050.

PRESENT OWNER
AND OCCUPANT:

U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.

PRESENT USE:

Enlisted men's service club and post library.

SIGNIFICANCE:

The Artillery Stables is one of a group of five Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson buildings that define the western and southern edges of Buffalo Soldier Field. The neo-gothic character of the buildings create a cohesive group and reflect the general style of the firm's work at the Academy. Although their original function no longer exists, the five buildings are symbolic of an historical military tradition.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1904-1908.
2. Architect: Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson, Architects, Boston and New York.
3. Original and subsequent owners: U.S. Military Academy, Department of the Army.
4. Builder: Church Construction Company. The Church Company defaulted on construction and the work was finished by the bonding company.
5. Original plans and construction: Consult the original Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson drawings in the Facilities Engineer's Office, U.S. Military Academy for the interior arrangement. As a unit, the buildings cost \$547,107.

The Annual Report of 1909 mentions the site work: "The work of grading, top soiling, and seeding the new artillery and cavalry drill ground, at the south end of the post, was completed early in June, with the exception of a small portion in the vicinity of the south gate guardhouse, which had to be postponed until the stonecutting yard of one of the contractors could be removed. This was done early in July, and the

grading of the new drill ground practically completed by August 1. A good growth of pasture grass has been obtained, which it is believed will withstand the wear and tear of mounted drill sufficiently to prevent the annoyance from dust that usually occurred when the old ground was used."

6. Alterations and additions: "A fire in 1914 destroyed a portion of the south wing of the stables. It was rebuilt in 1916 following the original plans and specifications. Four years later, in 1920, a rear wing was added. In 1959 the north wing was converted into a bowling alley. The Post Library and offices now occupy the remainder of the building." (Crashof)
- B. Historical Context: The Artillery Stables was designed as part of a group which consisted of the Cavalry Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-28), the Artillery Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-27), the Cavalry Stables (HABS No. NY-5708-47) and the Gun Shed (HABS No. NY-5708-56). These were grouped around the "Cavalry and Artillery Plain" where instruction was given. The area was renamed Buffalo Soldier Field after the Ninth Cavalry detachment of black cavalymen assigned to West Point in 1907. For the historical context of this area within the overall development of West Point see HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 2: "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical Development of the United States Military Academy."

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The Artillery Stables is representative of the work of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson at the U.S. Military Academy in the first decade of the 20th century. The brick exterior walls with limestone detailing, the protruding "buttresses" on the sallyports and the end elevations and the strong, vertical massing of the central entry sallyport combine to create a medieval image that was highly distinctive on a campus that, at that time, was composed of a wide variety of architectural styles. Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson was, without doubt, the most prominent architectural firm at West Point in this century. Their work is a clear reflection of the "medievalist" craftsman philosophy of Ralph Adams Cram. This is seen not only in their other buildings at the Academy, but also in their later work nationally.
2. Condition of the Fabric: The building is in good condition.

B. Description of the Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The Artillery Stables is a "T" shaped structure with the 362' long by 80' wide crossing fronting on Swift Road. The stem of the "T", to the rear, measures 76' by 68'. The length of the low building is tied together by the vertical, central entry sallyport and the end corner sallyports. The building is 33 bays between protruding brick "piers" on the front (east) facade and nine bays on the north and south facades.

2. Foundation: Concrete is used for the footings, while the foundation walls are concrete and granite with a granite water table.
3. Walls: The exterior walls are red brick laid in a Flemish bond pattern with limestone detailing. A raised "venting" gable with wood sides exists in the upper portion of the gables.

Protruding brick "piers" punctuate the bay divisions at the front facade, while brick "buttresses" are situated on the corners of the sallyports.

Limestone is used extensively for the trim on the building, including use on window sills and lintels, beltcourses, pointed arches and parapet capping.

Above the main entry, at the top of the sallyport, is the only distinctive exterior wall embellishment, a carved limestone panel, similar to the one on the Artillery Barracks, composed of a pair of crossed cannon and the letters "USMA".

4. Structural systems: Load bearing brick walls with brick facing comprise the structural system of the exterior walls. The flooring is a vitrified brick on grade on the first level and wood supported by wood joists on the second. The roofing system is composed of wood rafters.
5. Sallyports, towers, chimneys: A central three story sallyport dominates the front facade. It steps back at the top, has limestone trim and is punctuated by vertical slits at the top.

Four corner towers feature limestone trim, arches and parapet capping.

Three brick chimneys exist on the building: one incorporated into the entry sallyport, one inside the gable parapet on the north front end of the structure and one in the "T" stem to the rear.

6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The Artillery Stables has seven doorways leading into it. The main entry has retained its original wood doors with square panels and large strap hinges. Three double metal doors have been punched through into the front facade, while the doorways, one in each corner tower, exist on the south facade. One to the west retains the original diagonal wood panel doors with strap hinges, while the other has been replaced with a metal and glass door. The doorway openings on the north facade have been filled in with brick with the exception of the east-central opening which has a double wood door.
 - b. Windows: Six-over-six double-hung wood sash windows dominate the front facade. The exceptions are six pane pivoting wood windows in the three southern-most bays and all bays beyond the third bay in the north wing. Metal bars have been added over the six pane windows.

Four-over-four double-hung wood sash windows with a four pane light above exist on the first floor on the south and north facades, while the second floor has three pane casement windows. Metal bars have been placed over the first floor windows on the north facade and all windows on the south facade.

7. Roof:

- a. Covering, shape: The gable roof is covered with a variety of colored slate placed in a random pattern.
- b. Cornice, eaves: The building has a plain limestone cornice and exposed rafters under the eaves.

C. Description of the Interior: The interior of the Artillery Stables has been remodeled and was not surveyed.

D. Site:

- a. General setting and orientation: The Artillery Stables is oriented to the east, defining the central southern edge of the Buffalo Soldier Field. The land is level on a broad plain to the east. To the north is the Cavalry Stables (HASB No. NY 5708-47). The land is terraced to the west to the Artillery and Cavalry Barracks (HABS No. NY-5708-27 and 28) before rising in a heavily wooded hillside. To the south the land is level, reaching to the Gun Shed (HABS No. NY-5708-56). The site is exposed on all sides.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

- A. Architectural Drawings: Original ink-on-linen working drawings are in the Facilities Engineer's Office, Directorate of Engineering and Housing, U.S. Military Academy. Subsequent alteration drawings are also found there.
- B. Early Views: Early photographs can be found in the U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. Some of these are reproduced in the Grashof and Lange volumes of this project.
- C. Bibliography:
 - 1. Primary and unpublished sources: Records, U.S. Military Academy Archives and Special Collections. See bibliographic essay in the Lange volume of this project for a listing of record groups.
 - 2. Secondary and published sources:

Annual Reports, U.S. Military Academy Archives.

Grashof, Bethanie C. "Building Analysis and Preservation Guidelines for Category I and Selected Category II Buildings at the United States Military Academy, West Point, New York," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

Lange, Robie S. "West Point: An Overview of the History and Physical

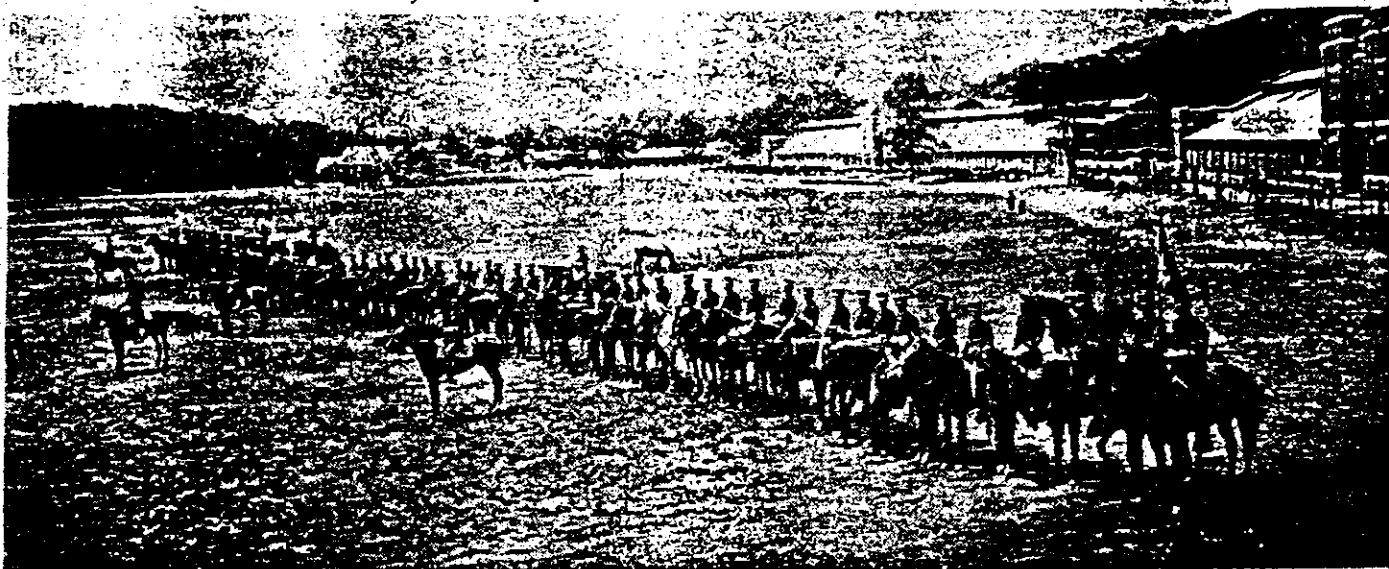
Development of the United States Military Academy," Historic American Buildings Survey, 1983. HABS No. NY-5708.

D. Likely Sources Not Yet Investigated: The records of Cram, Goodhue and Ferguson.

E. Supplemental Material:

1. "Saga of the 'Buffalo Soldiers,'" Pointer View, May 18, 1973.

1. "Saga of the 'Buffalo Soldiers'"
from the Pointer View, May 18, 1973.
U.S. Military Academy Archives



Part of Ninth Cavalry's "Buffalo Soldiers" assigned to West Point in 1910. Bldgs. 622 and 626 were then stables. (USMA Archives)

Recounted for Armed Forces ceremonies

Saga of the 'Buffalo Soldiers'

For 20 years after the Civil War two black cavalry regiments wrestled the West — from the Dakotas to the Rio Grande — wrangling with hostile Indians, bandits, cattle thieves, murderous gunmen, bootleggers, trespassers, and Mexican revolutionaries.

Near the turn of the century both regiments galloped into the war with Spain, storming San Juan Hill with the Rough Riders and joining the siege of Santiago.

Yet the black cavalrymen — dubbed "Buffalo Soldiers" by Indian warriors who learned to respect the dogged Black soldiers — rode quietly and inconspicuously through the chapters of American history.

One of their last rides in the early 1900's brought them to West Point where they turned to training cadets in horsemanship.

Today the Cavalry is gone and the stables are offices. But the name becomes a permanent fixture when West Point salutes the Buffalo Soldiers in Armed Forces Day ceremonies at 1:30 p.m., Saturday. Cavalry Plain, now an athletic field at the south end of West Point, will be dedicated and renamed Buffalo Soldier Field.

Former members of the Ninth and Tenth U.S. Cavalry Regiments and members of the Ninth and Tenth Cavalry Association will attend the ceremonies on the field along with local dignitaries. LTG William

A. Knowlton, USMA Superintendent, will deliver the keynote address.

The ceremonies will only be a part of Armed Forces Day activities planned for West Point and Highland Falls. (See box).

A regiment of cadets is also expected to join marching units in the Armed Forces Day Parade in New York City.

The remarkable story of the unheralded

Buffalo Soldiers' efforts in taming the West unfolds in William H. Leckie's book, *The Buffalo Soldier*.

Leckie noted in his study that "in thousands of pages the Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Cavalry, great regiments all, rode and fought their way to glory, but the Negro troopers were usually dismissed with a bare mention, ignored completely, or their efforts mocked."

"Many a frontier official owed his life and his job to the support given him by these Black men in blue."

As the Indian Wars subsided, Buffalo Soldiers played an integral role in the War with Spain. They fought in the Philippines and Cuba. General Pershing, who earned his nickname of Black Jack by leading Black troops in the West, was proud of his Black troops in the Santiago campaign. Colonel Teddy Roosevelt later wrote, "The 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments fought one on either side of mine at Santiago, and I wish no better men beside me in battle than these colored troops showed themselves to be."

In 1907 a detachment of the Ninth Cavalry was assigned to West Point in support of cadet riding instruction and mounted drill, which was conducted on the ground now known as Cavalry Plain.

In 1931 it was replaced by the 2nd Squadron of the Tenth Cavalry which remained at West Point until its de-activation in 1946.

Tomorrow's slate

TIME	EVENT
10 a.m.- 4 p.m.	Equipment Display at Buffalo Soldier Field.
1:30 p.m.	Dedication Ceremony & Cadet Review at Buffalo Soldier Field.
2:15 p.m.	Demonstration by Cadet Riding Club at Buffalo Soldier Field.
3:30 p.m.	Sky Diving Demon- stration by Cadet Parachute Club at Buffalo Soldier Field.
9 a.m.- 5 p.m.	Spring Sidewalk Sale and Arts Festival in High- land Falls.

PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

This documentation is part of a multi-year project sponsored by the National Park Service and the United States Military Academy, explained in the United States Military Academy, HABS No. NY-5708, Volume 1, "Methodology." This written documentation was prepared by Travis C. McDonald, Jr. and Timothy Lindblad, architectural historians, in 1984-1985 based on fieldwork conducted in 1985.